



June Meeting

The June meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands was held on June 13, 2018 in the Webb Center in Carona, KS. There were 21 members present. Minutes of the meeting can be found at the end of this newsletter. Members in attendance were: Jack Evans, Guy Ferguson, Kathy & Larry Spahn, Bryson Spahn, John Chambers, Dick Rauikner, W.D. Carter, Bob Capps, Ivan & Denzil Voorhees, Nicholas Ybarra, Fred & Ruth Maxwell, Jimmie Lovell, Michael Sheward, Darrell Cave, Connie & Michael Payton, Joe Murphey, and Steven Gardner.

Summer Hours

Summer is here. Be thinking about volunteering during our open weekends during the summer. Those are the 1st and 3rd weekends of June, July & August.

Fredonia Gate

A lot of work has been done on the crossing gate in the last month. Dave Parker brought his tractor to Carona on Sunday, June 3, to assist in getting several projects completed that have been on the back burner for a while. The mounting base for the Cherokee gate control box was installed and leveled. The repaired signal box was picked up from the welder and was set on the base. The entire area was cleaned up and clean rock was spread



Photo courtesy of John Chambers

over the site. Jack Evans planted grass seed around the gate post. The old entrance gate was moved and installed on the roadway along the west side of the tracks near the 1023 locomotive. Dave



Photo courtesy of John Chambers

and his tractor really made the job a lot easier. He drilled the gate post holes for the gate posts and set the gate. He then drilled another hole for the post that holds the Fredonia gate open and installed an aluminum post that he had brought for that use. The dirt and clay were removed from the site and all the left-over parts were put in our parts pile on the east side of the tracks. A large limb that had been blown down was also removed. John Chambers, Jack Evans, Michael Sheward and Larry Spahn were on hand to assist. Freddy VanBecelaere delivered 17 tons of 1/2 inch, clean rock which will be used around the museum grounds.

There are a couple of minor things to complete on the project but the addition of the gate has brought a very interesting part of railroad history to our grounds. It is being used as a working gate is a bonus! Thanks to everyone that spent time, energy and effort on this project.

What is it?

This is an item that is currently located in the Carona museum. What is it?



Answer next month

Photo courtesy of Brian Carlson

Last Month's picture was a KCS Fairmont track inspection car that was restored by John Spahn. This car was used between Pittsburg and Joplin.

Passenger Cars

The COTS inspection of the passenger cars has been completed! The coaches were ready to go for the June 23rd train ride out of Columbus. Thanks to Watco for working to get the inspection completed. We can now offer rides again!

Railroad Bench

In the past there has been discussion into acquiring a wheel set to be used as a bench, similar to what many other groups have done. Nick Ybarra found a set in Joplin and arranged for their donation to the Heartlands. The "Ol Truck" garage had the wheels for several



Photo courtesy of Larry Spahn



Photo courtesy of Larry Spahn

years behind their shop in Joplin. Tom Johnston and Joe Murphey made the arrangements to transport the wheel set to Carona. They used Tom's trailer to move it which was no small project. The wheels and axle weigh about



Photo courtesy of Larry Spahn

twenty-three hundred pounds. Jim Oberbeck brought his tractor to the museum and unloaded the wheels and set them near the 1023 locomotive where they will be made into a bench. Jim also dug out the hole for the control box for the Fredonia gate and set the concrete base into the hole for a rough fit. Thanks for everyone's help!

Slide Show

The slide show on June 10 was well attended with many members present. All enjoyed many one of a kind pictures on our large movie screen. Dick Rauniker and his wife provided a large dish of rigatoni with Italian sausages and crispy buttered bread. Several railroad items were also donated. One item was a presentation switch and lantern and the other a semaphore blade and lens assembly. Ken Albrecht from Columbia, MO donated several items including about 2000 slides. Bob Plough gave us a 1998 presentation lantern from the Missouri & Northern Arkansas RR.



Donation from Bob Plough



Donation from Ken Albrecht



ATSF nail Set, donated by Don Richardson

Announcements

- The next meeting will be July 11, 2018 at the Webb Center in Carona, KS. The meeting will start at 7:00 pm.
- The Bartlesville ride that was rescheduled for June 16 was cancelled. Bartlesville did not fee that they had enough lead time to advertise the ride and sell tickets.
- The Heartlands was asked by the Miners Hall Museum in Franklin to host their next quarter's rotating display and monthly programs. This runs July, August and September. John Chambers and Dick Rauniker are setting up the display using material from the Heartlands and Dick's collection. The July presentation will be on Sunday the 15th starting at 2 pm by John Chambers on the moving and restoration of KCS 1023. Dick will give the August presentation on the Sunday the 12th at 2 pm on railroads and coal mining in our area.

Dead Tree Removal

The elm tree in front of the museum died recently. Given it's close proximity to the Webb Center building arrangements were made with Jeremy's Tree Service to remove the tree and clean up all the parts. The tree



Photo courtesy of Larry Spahn

service arrived on June 14 to bring the tree safely to the ground. Jeremy's even cut the tree into smaller pieces to make the removal process easier. The tree was cut off to ground level, but due to a slope in the

ground at that point it is not completely flush with the ground. We will work on that clean up aspect when the weather cools down a bit. The area definitely looks different without that tree there, but at least a storm coming through will not have a chance of putting that tree into the museum.



Photo courtesy of Larry Spahn



Photo courtesy of Larry Spahn

KCS Memorabilia Donation

Kathy Bernard called Larry about donating some of her father, grandfather, and great-grandfather's odds and ends that she has had for many years. The men had spent many years railroading in the local area. Her father was with the KCS while the others were on the Frisco. There are letters dated 1902 that are on Memphis, Fort Scott and Gulf stationary. There are a lot of interesting letters, pictures, and even a brass steam whistle. Kathy said that she would probably have more as she goes through the memories. She would like for them to be remembered and enjoyed by persons interested in our railroad history.



Photo courtesy of John Chambers

Miscellaneous Photos



Photo courtesy of Larry Spahn

Photo of old Cherokee Frisco Gate. Taken while on a ride. Pictured are Gordon Garrett, John Spahn and Larry Spahn.



Unknown photographer

The passenger cars and the Good Times sit on the siding at Carona awaiting their next adventure.



Unknown photographer

A SKOL freight train passes by the Carona depot.

Columbus Sesquicentennial

The train ride out of Columbus was held on June 23, with no issues. There were a total of 234 passengers on the one hour ride. The ride went west out of Columbus and approached Sherwin when the train returned to Columbus. Everyone seemed to have a good time. Thanks to our SKOL crew of Rick Hensley and Bill Casey for an excellent ride. Also thanks to our Heartlands' attendants of John Chambers, Brian Carlson, Larry and Kathy Spahn, Ivan and Denzil Vorhees, Bryson Spahn, Mike Sheward, Don Richardson, Mike and Connie Payton, Gordon Garrett and Nick Ybarra. The next scheduled ride will be September 1, for Little Balkans' Days in Pittsburg. More details on that ride will be forthcoming at a later time.

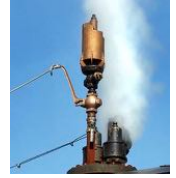
Grass Cutting-Spraying

Joe Carlson brought his ATV and sprayer to the museum and mixed up and sprayed fifty gallons of weed and grass killer around the displays and parking lot and along the west side of the railroad tracks. Joe said that he would be back in a couple of weeks to get what he missed. Tom Johnston has completed the first full month of grass mowing and between rains has kept the grass looking good. Jim Lovell will have the month of June for the grass cutting task. Anyone wanting to assist is reminded that we do have two mowers and your assistance is always appreciated. Thanks to all of our mowers and to Joe for his help in eliminating the weeds.

Got a spot?

Don't hesitate to send something in if you have a place you have been or would like to go to. Our members would love to hear about it!

Whistle Stop!



Amtrak to Reno!

On April 21st of this year, six members of the Heart of the Heartlands embarked on a rail journey to Reno, Nevada aboard Amtrak's California Zephyr, which means "gentle wind". The Zephyr is arguably one of Amtrak's most scenic trains as it passes from Chicago through Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, Colorado, Utah, Nevada on its way to San Francisco, California. John and Linda Shomin boarded the Zephyr at Galesburg, IL, after a connecting trip aboard the Southwest Chief from Union Station in Kansas City. Dave and Judy Parker and Kathy and Larry Spahn boarded the train in Osceola, IA. The entire group enjoyed a steak dinner in the diner before retiring to their roomettes in the-532 sleeping car. The next morning found the party in Denver and after a short stop began the climb out of the Mile-High City into the front range of the Rocky Mountains. The train passes through several short tunnels before entering the six and one-half mile long Moffat Tunnel. From this point on the train parallels the Colorado River and several canyons that are only viewed from the train or a raft. Gore, Ruby, Glenwood, Bryce, Red, Fraser and Byers Canyons provide over two hundred miles of breath taking views of the river and mountains. The train leaves the mountains near Monument Valley, and proceeds to its stop in Salt Lake City around midnight for a crew change. The next morning, after a hearty breakfast, we arrived in Reno, Nevada, "The Biggest Little City in the World". The railroad enters the city through a long, deep, concrete lined cut which takes the railroad below street level. This was done to alleviate the traffic jams that were caused by the many long freight trains that pass through the city after the beautiful trip over Donner Pass and the Sierra Nevada Mountain range.

Upon arrival the group made their way the short distance to their hotel, the Silver Legacy. The early morning arrival allowed the group to spend the entire day exploring the area before turning in for the night. The next day was beautiful and clear. Several of the group took the River Walk along and over the Truckee River which flows through the city. The 4:30 pm departure of train #6 allowed another full day of sightseeing. The train left on time and another trip through the Rocky's going in the other direction allowed different views out the sleeper windows on either side of the train.

The Zephyr descended from the east side of the mountains as the sun set in the west and provided a wonderful view of the lights of Denver in the distance. Our train departed Denver on time and after going to sleep to the relaxing sound of the rhythm of the rails, awoke to the first call to breakfast. The train arrived in Osceola at 7:15 am. The four members of the group said good bye to John and Linda and everyone headed for home.

A great train trip with good friends, good food and wonderful scenery, all in six days. As a footnote and no great surprise, "no one hit the jack pot" but we did leave a few bucks in their coffers.

- submitted by Larry Spahn

Another New Section!!!

This section is for a set of book reviews that member John Chambers has put together. We have several books in our small library at the Webb Center, but we are having more and more people ask about what books talk about the history of the railroads in the 4-state area. John has taken the time to produce these short book reviews to aid in ones' quest for that missing railroad history. Enjoy!

From the Past...

The Border Tier Road

Collins, Robert. *The Border Tier Road* David City, NE: South Platte Press, 2003.

This 48 page book tells the history of what is now the BNSF line from Kansas City to Baxter Springs. It was known as the border tier road as it followed the Missouri/Kansas border. It was started at the end of the civil war and was finally merged into the Frisco in 1901. It is a nice short history that doesn't take too long to read and is the only one on this important rail line and should be included in any library of four state railroads.

The Race to Indian Territory, Three Railroads, Their Struggle, and Their Ultimate Fate

Collins, Robert. *The Race to Indian Territory, Three Railroads, Their Struggle, and Their Ultimate Fate* Wichita, KS: Robert Collins, 2005.

This 72 page paperback is the story of the three railroads that at the end of the civil war were engaged in a race to see which would be the first to construct a railroad from central Kansas to the northern border of Indian Territory (now Oklahoma). Per the agreement reached with the Indian tribes at the end of the war only one railroad would be allowed to cross their land and enter Texas from the north. To determine which road a construction race ensued and the first road to reach the border won the rights. This book tells the story of this race, the intrigue and the tales that grew out of it. This story had been told in several other books but this is the only one in which all the stories have been compiled and examined to try and determine fact from fiction. It is a must read for anyone interested in the development of the railroads in Southeast Kansas. The Border Tier book is still being sold by the publisher South Platte Press, visit their website at www.southplattepress.com. The Race to Indian Territory is out of print but used copies are for sale on Amazon and e-bay.

June 13, 2018 - Heart of the Heartlands - Minutes

The June 2018 meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands, Inc. was called to order at 7:00 pm, June 13, 2018, by president Larry Spahn. There were 21 members in attendance.

Minutes of previous meeting: The minutes of the May meeting were approved as mailed. The motion for approval was made by Jack Evans and seconded by Nick Ybarra. It passed by the membership present.

Treasurer's Report: After the presentation of the the treasurer's report, Darrell Cave moved to accept the report, Jack Evans seconded the motion, the motion passed by the membership present.

Old Business:

Slide Show:

The slide show on June 10 was well attended with many members present. All enjoyed many one of a kind pictures on our large movie screen. Dick Rauniker and his wife provided a large dish of rigatoni with Italian sausages and crispy buttered bread. Several railroad items were also donated. One item was a presentation switch and lantern and the other a semaphore blade and lens assembly. Ken Albrecht from Columbia, MO donated several items including more slides. Bob Plough gave us a 1998 presentation lantern from the Missouri & Northern Arkansas RR.

Passenger Car Inspection:

The COTS inspection of the the passenger cars has been completed and the coaches are now ready for the Columbus rid on June 23rd. The old battery in the 9202 car has been purchased by Watco and installed by Larry. The air conditioning appears to be working as the cars cooled down very nicely at this time.

Fredonia gate:

A lot of work has been done on the crossing gate in the last month. Dave Parker brought his tractor to Carona on Sunday, June 3, to assist in getting several projects completed that have been on the back burner for a while. The mounting base for the Cherokee gate control box was installed and leveled. The repaired signal box was picked up from the welder and was set on the base. The entire area was cleaned up and clean rock was spread over the site. Jack Evans planted grass seed around the gate post. The old entrance gate was moved and installed on the roadway along the west side of the tracks near the 1023 locomotive. Dave and his tractor really made the job a lot easier. He drilled the gate post holes for the gate posts and set the gate. He then drilled another hold for the post that holds the Fredonia gate open and installed an aluminum post that he had brought for that use. The dirt and clay were removed from the site and all the left-over parts were put in our parts pile on the east side of the tracks. A large limbs that had been blown down was also removed. John Chambers, Jack Evans, Michael Sheward and Larry Spahn were on hand to assist. Freddy VanBecelaere delivered 17 tons of 1/2 inch, clean rock which will be used around the museum grounds.

Bartlesville train ride:

The planned train ride out of Bartlesville has been cancelled. Bartlesville did not feel that they had enough lead time to advertise the ride and sell the tickets because of the uncertainty of the outcome of the inspection of the passenger cars.

Columbus Sesquicentennial Celebration:

The train ride out of Columbus will be held on Saturday, June 23rd, barring any unforeseen problems. One ride is planned at this time, with the train departing Columbus at 10:00 am. The trip will be an approximately one-hour ride toward Sherwin Junction and return. Boarding will be at Pennsylvania Street, north of the courthouse. Volunteers should be in Columbus around 9:00 am. Tickets are available at the Columbus Chamber of Commerce, 320 Maple St., Columbus, KS. Phone number is 620-429-1492. Cost of the tickets are \$10.00 each. Larry checked at the chamber on Tuesday and ticket sales were brisk with more phone calls all the time.

Summer Time Hours and Volunteers:

John Chambers, Brian Carlson, Michael Sheward, Jack Evans, Dave Parker and Larry Spahn were on hand for our first day of being opened for the 2018 summer. Jim McKeel made a surprise visit on Sunday afternoon. Several families stopped in to enjoy the grounds and displays. Watco even had a train pass by to the delight of many onlookers. The site makes a great place to get some train and depot pictures.

Grass Cutting/Spraying:

Joe Carlson brought his ATV and sprayer to the museum and mixed up and sprayed fifty gallons of weed and grass killer around the displays and parking lot and along the west side of the railroad tracks. Joe said that he would be back in a couple of weeks to get what he missed. Tom Johnston has completed the first full month of grass mowing and between rains has kept the grass looking good. Jim Lovell will have the month of June for the grass cutting task. Anyone wanting to assist is reminded that we do have two mowers and your assistance is always appreciated.

New Business:**Dead Tree:**

The elm tree in front of the museum has died and arrangements have been made with Jeremy's Tree Service to remove the tree and clean up all the parts. He will cut the tree off at ground level so cars will be able to park in that area. They will cut the larger limbs into pieces small enough to burn.

KCS Memorabilia Donation:

Kathy Bernard called Larry about donating some of her father, grandfather, and great-grandfather's odds and ends that she has had for many years. The men had spent many years railroading in the local area. Her father was with the KCS while the others were on the Frisco. There are letters dated 1902 that are on Memphis, Fort Scott and Gulf stationary. There are a lot of interesting letters, pictures, and even a brass steam whistle. Kathy said that she would probably have more as she goes through

the memories. She would like for them to be remembered and enjoyed by persons interested in our railroad history.

Railroad Bench:

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Announcements:

- John Chambers and Dick Rauniker have been asked to setup a display at the Miners Hall Museum in Franklin for their quarterly topic at their museum. This display will be about the railroads in the area and their role in the mining industry. The display will be setup from July 2 through September 27. Both John and Dick will be having presentations during the display time. John Chambers will be talking about moving the 1023 on July 15 and Dick will be talking about the railroads and mining on August 12th. This relationship with area museums helps them and helps promote the Heart of the Heartlands.

It was moved by Nick Ybarra and seconded by Ivan Vorhees to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned by approval vote of the membership present.